Having thus described the preferred embodiment, the invention is now claimed to be:

1.   A peripheral device, comprising:

a connector communicating with a network; and

a controller communicating with the connector, controller input signals being received from the network via the connector, controller output signals being transmitted to the network via the connector, and a portion of the controller output signals causing a communication path to be established between the controller and a mobile device.

2.   The peripheral device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller generates the portion of the output signals for establishing the communication path as a function of an operating status of the controller.

3.   The peripheral device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller input signals include signals for causing an output to be generated, the peripheral device further including:

means for generating the output.

4.   The peripheral device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the means for generating the output includes:

a printing component.

5.   The peripheral device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the controller generates the portion of the output signals for establishing the communication path as a function of respective operating statuses of at least one of the means for generating the output and the controller.

6.   The peripheral device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a format of the portion of the controller output signals is at least one of a) packetized and b) digital;

any of the portion of the controller output signals in the packetized format are converted to a de-packetized format for establishing the communication path between the controller and the mobile device; and

any of the portion of the controller output signals in the digital format are converted to an analog format for establishing the communication path between the controller and the mobile device.

7. The peripheral device as set forth in claim 6, wherein the portion of the controller output signals in the packetized format are converted to the de-packetized format and the portion of the controller output signals in the digital format are converted to the analog format in a gateway communicating with the network.

8. The peripheral device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a portion of the controller input signals are received from the mobile device via the communication path.

9. The peripheral device as set forth in claim 8, wherein:

any of the portion of the controller input signals transmitted from the mobile device in a de-packetized format are converted to a packetized format before being received by the controller;

any of the portion of the controller input signals transmitted from the mobile device in an analog format are converted to a digital format before being received by the controller.

10. The peripheral device as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

the portion of the controller input signals are received from the mobile device via a gateway;

any of the portion of the controller input signals are converted to the packetized format and the analog format within the gateway.

11. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium including computer readable program code means therein for causing a communication path to be established between a peripheral device and a mobile device via a gateway, comprising:

5   computer readable program code means for determining an operating status of the peripheral device; and

computer readable program code means for generating a signal, as a function of the operating status of the peripheral device, for causing the communication path to be established.

12. The computer program product as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

the operating status of the peripheral device is one of "error" and "no-error"; and

5   if the operating status is "error", the computer readable program code means generates the signal for causing the communication path to be established.

13. The computer program product as set forth in claim 11, wherein the computer readable program code means generates the signal having at least one of a packetized format and a digital format.

14. The computer program product as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the gateway ensures the signal is in a de-packetized format and an analog format; and

5   the computer readable program code means generates the signal to include a mobile device identifier.

15. The computer program product as set forth in claim 11, further including:

computer readable program code means for interpreting a signal received from the mobile device.

16. A method for establishing a communication path between a peripheral device and a mobile device, the method comprising:

determining an operating status of the peripheral device;

generating a signal, as a function of the operating status, for causing

5 the communication path to be established.

17. The method for establishing the communication path as set forth in claim 16, wherein the generating includes:

if the operating status indicates an error within the peripheral device, generating the signal for causing the communication path to be established.

18. The method for establishing the communication path as set forth in claim 16, further including:

transmitting the signal from the peripheral device to the mobile device via a gateway; and

5 within the gateway, ensuring the signal is in at least one of a de-packetized format and an analog format.

19. The method for establishing the communication path as set forth in claim 16, further including:

transmitting a second signal from the mobile device to the peripheral device via the gateway.

20. The method for establishing the communication path as set forth in claim 19, further including:

within the gateway, ensuring the signal is in at least one of a packetized format and a digital format.